

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A stain-resistant, acid-dyed nylon filament having a core and a sheath which surrounds entirely said core and is present in an amount of less than about 10 wt.% of the filament, wherein said core is formed of a nylon core polymer having an amine end group (AEG) content of between about 10 meq/kg to about 100 meq/kg which is susceptible to dyeing by an acid dye bath chemical, and wherein said sheath is formed of a nylon sheath polymer having an AEG content of less than about 10 meq/kg which is resistant to dyeing by said acid dye bath chemical, and wherein said filament is dyed such that said acid dye bath chemical physically diffuses or migrates through said nylon sheath polymer to cause the nylon core polymer to be dyed a color of the acid dye bath chemical, while the sheath polymer is substantially undyed thereby.

21. (Original) The filament of claim 20, which is a trilobal filament

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The filament of claim 20, which has between about 90 wt.% to about 97 wt.% of the core polymer, and between about 3 wt.% to about 10 wt.% of the sheath polymer.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) The filament of claim 20, wherein the nylon sheath polymer has an AEG content of less than about 5 meq/kg.

26. (Original) The filament of claim 25, wherein the nylon sheath polymer is a nylon-6,12 homopolymer.

27. (Previously Presented) The filament of claim 20 or 26, wherein the nylon core polymer is at least one nylon selected from the group consisting of nylon-6, nylon-12, nylon-11, nylon-6/6, nylon-6/10 and copolymers and blends thereof.

28. (Canceled)

29. (New) The filament of claim 20, wherein the nylon core polymer has an AEG content of between about 20 to about 50 meq/kg.

30. (New) A stain-resistant, acid-dyed nylon filament having a core and a sheath which surrounds entirely said core and is present in an amount of less than about 10 wt.% of the filament, wherein said core is formed of a nylon core polymer having an amine end group (AEG) content of between about 20 meq/kg to about 50 meq/kg which is susceptible to dyeing by an acid dye bath chemical, and wherein said sheath is formed of a nylon sheath polymer having an AEG content of less than about 5 meq/kg which is resistant to dyeing by said acid dye bath chemical, and wherein said filament is dyed such that said acid dye bath chemical physically diffuses or migrates through said nylon sheath polymer to cause the nylon core polymer to be dyed a color of the acid dye bath chemical, while the sheath polymer is substantially undyed thereby.

31. (New) The filament of claim 30, which is a trilobal filament

32. (New) The filament of claim 30, which has between about 90 wt.% to about 97 wt.% of the core polymer, and between about 3 wt.% to about 10 wt.% of the sheath polymer.

33. (New) The filament of claim 30, wherein the nylon sheath polymer is a nylon-6,12 homopolymer.

HOYT et al
Serial No. 10/059,364
June 15, 2006

34. (New) The filament of claim 30 or 35, wherein the nylon core polymer is at least one nylon selected from the group consisting of nylon-6, nylon-12, nylon-11, nylon-6/6, nylon-6/10 and copolymers and blends thereof.